

House Bill 1088

By: Representatives Heard of the 104th and Dollar of the 45th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for special license plates promoting the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund and related
4 activities; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications, transfers,
5 and disposition of funds relative to such license plates; to provide for related matters; to
6 provide for a contingent effective date; to provide for automatic repeal under certain
7 circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
12 adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.18 to read as follows:

13 "40-2-86.18.

14 (a) In order to promote programs dedicated to providing comprehensive services to address
15 the key needs of the region's older population and activities directly in support thereof,
16 there shall be issued beginning January 1, 2007, special license plates promoting the
17 Thanks Mom and Dad Fund, subject to the conditions set forth in this Code section.

18 (b) The commissioner shall design special distinctive license plates appropriate to promote
19 the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund. The license plates shall be of the same size as general
20 issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying
21 number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients
22 shall receive identically numbered plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be
23 placed to the left of the alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches
24 by three inches. The Thanks Mom and Dad Fund may request the assignment of the first

1 of 100 in a series of license plates upon payment of an additional initial registration fee of
2 \$25.00 for each license plate requested.

3 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, this Code section
4 shall not be implemented until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing
5 agreement or otherwise, received any licenses or other permissions that may be required
6 to implement this Code section. The design of the initial edition of the license plates, as
7 well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the designs
8 owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely by the State of Georgia for
9 its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the commissioner. The commissioner
10 may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice of and protect such right, including
11 the copyright or copyrights. However, such steps shall be cumulative of the ownership and
12 exclusive use and control established by this subsection as a matter of law, and no person
13 shall reproduce or otherwise use such design or designs, except as authorized by the
14 commissioner.

15 (d) Beginning in calendar year 2007, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor
16 vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon
17 complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor
18 vehicles and upon the payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular
19 motor vehicle registration fee shall be issued a license plate promoting the Thanks Mom
20 and Dad Fund. Revalidation decals shall be issued for such license plates in the same
21 manner as provided for general issue license plates.

22 (e)(1) From the additional \$25.00 fee charged for the issuance and renewal of the license
23 plates authorized under this Code section, \$2.00 shall be used by the department for
24 manufacturing and purchase costs, \$13.00 shall be paid to the general fund of the state
25 treasury, and \$10.00 shall be exclusively dedicated for the purpose of assisting programs
26 dedicated to providing comprehensive services to address the key needs of the state's
27 older population, pursuant to Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the Constitution.
28 Such dedicated funds shall be appropriated for such purpose to the Department of Human
29 Resources or such other public agency as may be specified in the General Appropriations
30 Act or amended General Appropriations Act. The agency or organization ultimately
31 making use of such funds shall periodically provide to the commissioner an audit of the
32 use of the funds or other evidence of use of the funds satisfactory to the commissioner.
33 Any audit performed under Chapter 6 of Title 50 shall meet this auditing requirement.
34 If an audit demonstrates that the funds are not being used for the purposes set forth in this
35 Code section or if the required audit or evidence is not provided to the commissioner,

1 then the commissioner shall so notify the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

2 Any funds appropriated pursuant to this Code section shall not lapse.

3 (2) Subject to the general appropriations process, it is the intent of the General Assembly
4 in the enactment of this Code section that the funds dedicated by this subsection be made
5 available for the ultimate use of nonprofit organizations that provide programs dedicated
6 to providing comprehensive services to address the key needs of the state's older
7 population.

8 (f) An applicant may request a Thanks Mom and Dad Fund license plate any time during
9 the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate is to replace a current valid
10 license plate, the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund license plate shall be issued with appropriate
11 decals attached.

12 (g) No special license plate authorized pursuant to this Code section shall be issued except
13 upon the application of at least 1,000 applications. The special license plate shall have an
14 application period of two years after January 1, 2007, for payment of the manufacturing
15 fee. After such time if the minimum number of applications is not met, the department
16 shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee, and all fees shall be refunded to
17 applicants.

18 (h) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license
19 plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during
20 the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current
21 registrant may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual
22 registration period upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual special tag fee, which fee
23 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
24 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department
25 may continue to issue such special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in
26 achieving the minimum number of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500
27 active registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of
28 Code Section 40-2-31, manufacture of the license plates shall not be continued until the
29 commissioner receives 1,000 applications.

30 (i) Thanks Mom and Dad Fund license plates shall be transferred from one vehicle to
31 another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-80.

32 (j) Thanks Mom and Dad Fund license plates shall be issued within 30 days of application
33 once the requirements of this Code section have been met."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2007; provided, however, that this Act shall only become effective on January 1, 2007, upon the ratification of a resolution at the November, 2006, state-wide general election, which resolution amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to authorize the dedication of revenue from the sales of license plates to a general purpose relating to the nature of the special license plate. If such resolution is not ratified, this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed in its entirety on January 1, 2007, and no such motor vehicle license plates shall be issued pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.